

PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Akira HIROSHIGE, et al.

Appln. No. Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: March 05, 2002

For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND RECORDING MEDIUM, AND IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

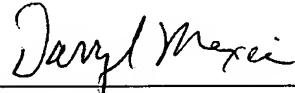
The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a

request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a Foreign Patent Office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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<p>Substitute for form 1449 A & B/PTO</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p>		<p><i>Complete if Known</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Application Number</td> <td>Not Yet Assigned</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Confirmation Number</td> <td>Not Yet Assigned</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td>March 05, 2002</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Named Inventor</td> <td>Akira HIROSHIGE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Art Unit</td> <td>Not Yet Assigned</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td>Not Yet Assigned</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attorney Docket Number</td> <td>Q68813</td> </tr> </table>		Application Number	Not Yet Assigned	Confirmation Number	Not Yet Assigned	Filing Date	March 05, 2002	First Named Inventor	Akira HIROSHIGE	Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned	Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned	Attorney Docket Number	Q68813
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.